

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We are deeply concerned with your fiscal year 2014 budget request's lack of support for the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP). As you know, the Army Corps of Engineers' General Re-evaluation Report calculates the national annual value of this project at \$213 million in benefits each year. The same report shows that SHEP will create 11,554 jobs, over \$551 million in labor income, and a gross regional value of over \$794 million. In addition, SHEP boasts one of the best cost benefit ratios of any Corps project in the whole nation of 5.5:1. With the forthcoming expansion of the Panama Canal, additional U.S. ports capable of receiving Post-Panamax ships are critical for the economic wellbeing and competitiveness of our nation.

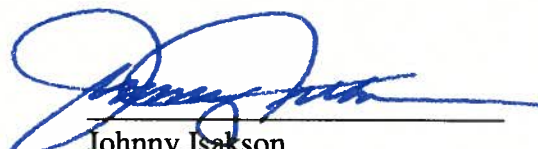
During your Presidential campaign last July, you illustrated understanding of the outstanding benefits this project provides when you listed the Port of Savannah as one of five national "We Can't Wait" projects. We are disappointed that your support for this vital project has seemingly waned this year.

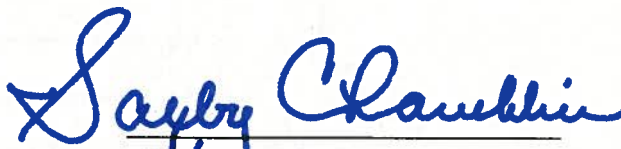
As you may know, SHEP has been a bipartisan effort at the federal, state, and local level. We, along with full Georgia Congressional Delegation and Mayor Reed, have voiced to you support for SHEP numerous times. Additionally, the State of Georgia has exceeded their cost-share requirement by identifying \$231 million for SHEP, and Congress has appropriated construction funds for the last five fiscal years. However, because of the lack of support in your budget, both state and federal contributions sit idle and progress has slowed. SHEP is seeing day-for-day delay in construction and the \$174 million of annual net benefits to the nation are not being realized.

We urge you to fulfill your "We Can't Wait" promise and include legislative language for the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project authorization increase in an official budget amendment to Congress as soon as possible. This is a vital project for Georgia, for the Southeast, and for the nation.

Sincerely,


Jack Kingston
U.S. House of Representatives


Johnny Isakson
U.S. Senate


Saxby Chambliss
U.S. Senate